



Fact Sheet

Congressman A. Donald McEachin

Congressman McEachin's Education Task Force explores the reported high rates of suspensions for minority and special needs students in the 4th Congressional District and examines whether students with special needs are receiving the services and opportunities to which they are entitled.

The Education Task Force is composed of 15 community members who are education professionals, administrators, parents, attorneys, pediatricians, and child advocates.

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Scott Barlow – Currently a member of the Richmond City School Board and has completed social justice work with the Delaware Department of Justice, the ACLU, and the Innocence Project. Mr. Barlowe is a graduate of Drexel University's Thomas R. Kline School of Law.

Dr. Carolyn Boone – A board-certified pediatrician, who owns a practice in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Boone is affiliated with local hospitals and specializes in pediatrics and adolescent medicine.

Kevin Boynton – The parent of three Chesterfield County Public School students with special educational needs. Mr. Boynton currently works in information technology and has professional experience in education.

Jeanette Clements – A social worker with Henrico County Public Schools and the mother of a former HCPS student with special educational needs.

Rachel Deane – Currently serves as the Legal Director of the Legal Aid Justice Center's JustChildren Program. Ms. Deane has previously worked with national civil rights organizations and is a University of Richmond School of Law alumna.

Kate Flinn – The parent of a Chesterfield County Public School student and a former educator. Ms. Flinn holds a post baccalaureate certificate in disability policy and has served as an advocate for students with disabilities – specifically autism. She has successfully created programs for children with autism in the region.

Dr. Tameshia Grimes – An educator and administrator in the Chesterfield County Public School since 1998. Ms. Grimes organizes and serves on CCPS's Equity Committee, which works to ensure unbiased access to opportunities and resources in the district.

Rev. Ralph Hodge – An educator at Henrico County Public Schools and pastor of the Second Baptist Church of South Richmond. Rev. Hodge holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and applied science as well as a Master of Divinity.

Ann Hoopsick – A homeschooling specialist, who also served as the president of the Tri-Cities Home Educators from 2005-2011. Ms. Hoopsick has worked with legislative affairs for the Home Educators Association of Virginia.

Information provided by the Office of Congressman A. Donald McEachin on July 18, 2017

Dr. Shirl Leverett – Former Chesterfield County Public School administrator and educator with 35 years of professional experience. Dr. Leverett has a Master of Education and a Doctorate in public policy. She previously served on the SEAC (Special Education Advisory Council) and has worked as a private educational consultant.

Donja Nicholson – The parent of a Henrico County Public School student with special educational needs. Ms. Nicholson works independently to educate parents about the IEP process and to combat racism in the education system.

Deanna Parker – A Senior Policy Analyst at the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. Ms. Parker is the parent of two Henrico County Public Schools students (one with autism) and an advocate for individuals with disabilities and special educational needs.

Francesca Spencer – The parent of a Chesterfield County Public School student. Ms. Spencer's son faced bullying this past year and she now focuses on ensuring a safe and equal learning environment for all students.

Jim Wheaton – A local attorney and the parent of a student with special educational needs. Mr. Wheaton recently served on the American Bar Association's Commission on Disability Rights, the Chesapeake School Board, and the Virginia Public School Authority.

Amy Woolard – An Attorney and Policy Coordinator at the Legal Aid Justice Center's JustChildren program. Ms. Woolard was previously appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe to serve on Virginia's Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Prevention.

###